Title: **Need to ensure effective implementation of welfare schemes for beedi workers in Tirunelveli and Thuthukudi districts of Tamil Nadu.**

SHRI DHANUSKODI R. ATHITHAN (TIRUNELVELI): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in Tirunelveli and Thuthukudi districts of Tamil Nadu, lakhs of beedi workers are living below poverty line. Even though the Labour Ministry wishes to implement various beneficial schemes for the beedi workers, such as scholarship, free medical treatment, housing schemes etc., still there are lot of hurdles to implement these schemes. Earlier all school-going children got the scholarship regularly in time. But in 2003 and 2004, no scholarship was distributed to the students in the Southern District which affects the poor students. In 2004-2005 academic year also, scholarship was partially distributed. I am informed that the Ministry has allotted Rs. 7 crore against the total estimate of Rs. 11.5 crore. Since the beedi workers are living in a bad economic condition, I request the Labour Minister to sanction Rs. 4.5 crore for this academic year and Rs. 7 crore for the academic year 2003-2004 to enable the students to get the scholarship amount.

Present housing scheme for beedi workers has also got delayed in processing. So, I request that the District Monitoring and Vigilance Committee constituted by Rural Development Ministry, headed by a senior MP of that District, may be given power to sanction the houses and the Ministry can give the amount directly to the beneficiaries which will facilitate speedy implementation of the scheme. In some places, beedi workers are not getting the required land as specified in the scheme. So, I suggest that the Ministry may allow to construct the multi-storey building with all amenities like park, play ground, library etc. and also enhance the amount from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 60,000.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Pankaj Chowdhary -- absent

Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan -- absent

Shri Suresh Chandel -- absent

Shri Kailash Meghwal -- absent

Shri Raghuvir Singh Kaushal -- absent

Shri A. P. Abdullakutty -- absent

Smt. P. Satheedevi.